ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 71396

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : BLUM et al. Serial No : 10/506,416 Confirm. No : 8449

Filed : May 13, 2004

For : METHOD OF PRODUCING...

Art Unit : 1742 Examiner : N/A

Dated : January 27, 2006

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO

NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTIVE RESPONSE

In response to the Notification of Defective Response dated December 30, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows: